Central and State Governments to spend equal amount on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the country from the ensuing year,

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and whether the amount to be shared by Government has also been mentioned in this proposal; and

(c) if so, the extend of amount and whether the proposed amount for the year 2007-08 is more or less as compared to the amount allotted for the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRl MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The centrally sponsored scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as approved in 2001, envisaged a funding pattern between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 85:15 during Ninth Plan period, 75:25 during Tenth Plan and 50:50 thereafter.

As per the Budget proposal presented on 28.02.2007, Rs. 10671 crore has been provided for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for the year 2007-08. The BE for SSA in the year 2006-07 was Rs. 11000 crores.

Mid-Day meal in higher classes

†1353. SHRl KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRl KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a scheme to implement Mid-day Meal Scheme in higher classes also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the enhanced amount to be incurred under the scheme as a result of its implementation; and

(d) by when the scheme would be implemented and the names of the States where it is likely to be introduced in the beginning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRl MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Finance tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Minister has announced in the Union Budget 2007-08 that the Mid-Day Meal Scheme will be extended to cover children in Upper Primary Classes in 3427 Educationally Backwards Blocks (EBBs) in 2007-08. A budget provision of Rs. 7324 crores has been made for the MDM Scheme for the year 2007-08.

Lack of higher educational facilities in the North-East Region

† 1354. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students from North Eastern States have to seek higher education in other States of the country due to lack of availability of required facilities of the said education;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any scheme to develop facilities for higher education in North Eastern States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Students from North Eastern States have the option to pursue higher education in other States of the country. It is not clear that they do so because the required facilities are not available in the North Eastern States.

(b) and (c) There are already six Central Universities in the North Eastern States and legislation has been enacted for the establishment of three more. North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), Itanagar, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) in Silchar, Assam and Agartala, Tripura are also looking after the needs of higher education in the North East. A proposal to set up an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Shillong has been approved. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has provided funds to Central Universities in North Eastern Region to set up faculties of Management and Engineering during the Tenth Plan period.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.